

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 INR-07 L-03 ACDA-07

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FM AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3083

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKRA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

RUDISDFXAMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK 1650

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

USMISSION NATO

USIA WASHDC

USCINCEUR

SECDEF

SHAPE

C O N F I D E N T I A L COPENHAGEN 2648

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MPOL, NATO, PFOR, DA

SUBJECT: GENERAL HAIG'S VISIT TO COPENHAGEN

REF: COPENHAGEN 2623

SUMMARY: SACEUR'S VISIT TO COPENHAGEN WAS EMINENTLY SUCCESSFUL IN
DEVELOPING A BROADER APPRECIATION OF NATO PROBLEMS, IN PARTICULAR THE
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GROWING THREAT TO NATO AND THE NEED FOR CONCERTED ACTION BY NATO

MEMBER COUNTRIES. END SUMMARY.

1. GENERAL ALEXANDER HAIG CAME TO COPENHAGEN MONDAY, AUGUST 9 TO ADDRESS THE CONGRESS OF INTERALLIED RESERVE OFFICERS. THROUGH THAT ADDRESS PLUS A FORTY MINUTE INTERVIEW ON DANISH TELEVISION AND SOCIAL CONTACTS WITH PROMINENT DANISH POLITICIANS, MILITARY OFFICERS, AND NEWS REPRESENTATIVES, HE WAS ABLE TO REACH A BROAD SECTOR OF DANISH SOCIETY. HIS MESSAGE - TO RECOGNIZE THE GROWING WARSAW PACT THREAT AND TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT BY DEVOTING MORE OF THEIR RESOURCES TO DEFENSE - WAS ENTHUSIASTICALLY RECEIVED BY THOSE WHO ALREADY SUPPORT THIS POSITION. MORE IMPORTANTLY, IT WAS LISTENED TO CAREFULLY AND WITH RESPECT BY THOSE WHO OPPOSE MAINTAINING DEFENSE SPENDING AT CURRENT LEVEL.

2. PRINCIPAL ISSUES RAISED DURING TV INTERVIEW INCLUDED NATURE AND ACUTENESS OF SOVIET THREAT, DETAILS OF WARSAW PACT ARMS BUILD-UP, SOME COMPARISONS OF WARSAW PACT AND NATO MILITARY CAPABILITIES, GENERAL HAIG'S REACTION TO SUGGESTIONS OF NATO INTERESTS BEYOND PRESENT GEOGRAPHIC AREA, AND SPECIFIC DISCUSSION OF SPAIN'S RELATIONSHIP TO THE DEFENSE OF EUROPE. IMPORTANCE OF REACHING NEW START AGREEMENT TO "CAP" SOVIET ARMS TREND WAS ALSO STRESSED BY THE GENERAL.

3. GENERAL HAIG'S ARTICULATE PRESENTATION IMPRESSED DANES WHO CHARACTERIZED HIM AS A SOLDIER WHO IS ALSO WELL VERSED IN MINUTE POINTS OF DOMESTIC EUROPEAN POLITICS, IN INTERNATIONAL ECONOMICS AND IS FULLY PREPARED TO REBUT CRITICISM OF SOME ELEMENTS RE PRIORITIES OF DEFENSE EXPENDITURES VERSUS SOCIAL INVESTMENTS. HE CAME ACROSS EFFECTIVELY AS THE ALLIED FORCES' COMMANDER AND NOT AS THE SENIOR U.S. MILITARY COMMANDER LECTURING TO A SMALLER NATO NATION.

4. THE EXTENSIVE TELEVISION COVERAGE REACHING ALL OF DENMARK DURING PRIME TIME, THE BROAD REPRESENTATION ON THE TELEVISION PANEL, COMBINED WITH GENERAL HAIG'S SUPERB PERFORMANCE HAVE REINFORCED OUR EFFORTS TO MAKE DANES AWARE OF THE UNDESIRABILITY OF REDUCING THEIR DEFENSE BUDGET WITHIN NEXT THREE YEARS.
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